



Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Agency Secretary
Cal/EPA



Department of Toxic Substances Control

8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

October 20, 2005

Dear Community Member:

You are invited to participate as we form this West Oakland Brownfields Working Group/Local Advisory Group. We are seeking community members, as well as interested or affected people and groups, to participate in this endeavor. This meeting will take place on **November 7, 2005 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the West Oakland Public Library, 1801 Adeline Street, Oakland, CA 94607.**

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is honored to partner with the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project's West Oakland Toxics Reduction Collaborative to organize a West Oakland Brownfield Working Group/Local Advisory Group pilot project. Together, we are moving forward with this project, which will involve the general public and other stakeholders in developing a forum for open communication between the community, the Department, and other agencies working on environmental cleanup in West Oakland. Brownfields are defined as abandoned, idled or underutilized properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), along with its Boards, Departments and Offices, is working on an interim Environmental Justice action plan to address complex Environmental Justice issues. Environmental Justice is defined in law (Government Code section 65040.12) as "the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and policies." Each entity within the Cal/EPA is developing and implementing a community-driven pilot project to facilitate the integration of Environmental Justice into its programs.

Future meeting dates, times, and formats will be determined by the West Oakland Brownfield Working Group/Local Advisory Group members. Meetings may be held monthly, bimonthly or quarterly over the next year and a half, as determined by the advisory group. If you are interested in participating please come to the meeting. For more information, contact DTSC Public Participation Specialist Kris Escarda at (916) 255-6684 or e-mail her at kescarda@dtsc.ca.gov. For Environmental Justice questions, please contact Vanessa Byrd, Environmental Justice Coordinator at (916) 322-6920 or vbyrd@dtsc.ca.gov.

The pilot project summary is enclosed. Please feel free to call if you have additional questions, or would like to share your thoughts and ideas.

Respectfully yours,

Joyce Whiten,
DTSC Public Participation Supervisor

Richard Grow,
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

Brian Beveridge,
West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project